



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH**  
*PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990*

April 12, 2006

**TO:** Washington State Board of Health Members

**FROM:** Frankie Manning, Chair of Health Disparities Subcommittee

**SUBJECT: REPORT AND DISCUSSION ON HEALTH DISPARITIES**

**Background and Summary**

The Governor signed Second Substitute Senate Bill 6197 into law on March 27, 2006. It creates the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities. The bill directs the council to: (a) promote and facilitate communication, coordination, and collaboration among relevant state agencies and communities of color to address health disparities; (b) evaluate how proposed state government policies and budget changes would ameliorate or exacerbate health disparities; (c) produce an action plan for eliminating health disparities by 2012. The action plan must address, but is not limited to: diabetes, asthma, infant mortality, HIV/AIDS, heart disease, strokes, breast cancer, cervical cancer, prostate cancer, chronic kidney disease, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), mental health, women's health issues, smoking cessation, oral disease, and immunization rates of children and senior citizens.

The Governor or her designee shall chair the Council. The Council can meet as often as necessary but not less than twice a year. The Council will comprise representatives from each of the state's minority commissions, the State Board of Health, the Department of Health, the Department of Social and Health Services, the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development, the Health Care Authority, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Ecology, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Department of Early Learning, the Work Force Training and Education Coordinating Board, and two members of the public who will represent the interests of health care consumers.

On April 5, 2006, the Health Disparities Committee met to discuss what the Board can do to support the Council and the various roles of the Council and Board. Today, I would like to share some of the committee's early thinking on these topics and open it up for broader discussion among all Board members. I have included the full versions of SSSB 6197 and SSB 6196 in your packet (under tab 9) to give you a more detailed context for this discussion.

**Recommended Board Action**

No action recommended at this time.